

8. (Amended) A naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes in 1X SSC at 65° C, followed by one or more washes in 0.3X SSC, at 65° C to a complement of a nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

9. (Amended) A polypeptide which is at least 90% identical to a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or 2.

15. (New) The isolated polypeptide of claim 6 further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

16. (New) The isolated polypeptide of claim 8 further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

17. (New) The isolated polypeptide of claim 9 further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.